

Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Medical Inspection of School Children

FOR 1916,

BY

R. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

FOR THE

Borough of Chesterfield.



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Chesterfield Education Committee.

MEDICAL INSPECTION DEPARTMENT.

MARCH, 1917.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. CARRUTHERS AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Medical Inspection of School Children in the Borough for the year ended December 31st, 1916.

On the suggestion of the Board of Education the Report has been made as brief as possible, and has been framed generally on the lines laid down in the Board's Circular 935.

The routine Medical Inspection of the three "Code" groups which, during the greater part of 1915 had been discontinued, was resumed in March, 1916.

In the Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education for 1915 it is stated that "Not less than a million children of school age in this country are so physically or mentally defective or diseased as to be unable to derive reasonable benefit from the education which the State provides." The excessive number of defective children in the Chesterfield area is demonstrated by the large increase in the work of the School Clinic during 1916. When it is realised that the great proportion of this physical defect is preventable, the national importance of the work of the School Medical Service at the present time will be appreciated.

I regret it is again necessary to point out that the lack of a School Nurse has adversely affected the School Medical Work in Chesterfield. When the provision made for the School Medical Service is adequate, a grant equal to 50 per cent. of the total expenditure is paid by the Board of Education. In view of the failure to provide nursing assistance, a 30 per cent. grant has only been paid by the Board during the past year.

For several years the number of children suffering from uncorrected defects of vision has been steadily accumulating. It is gratifying to be able to record that towards the end of the year arrangements were made for the treatment of these cases at the County School Clinic.

I have again to express my indebtedness to the members of the Teaching Staff and the Attendance Officers for their co-operation and assistance, and to the Committee for their courtesy and consideration.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. FRASER.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1916.

No. of Children examined in School Routine Inspection	1515
No. of Special Cases examined in School Routine Inspection	448
No. of Re-inspections of Children previously found defective	1134
No. of Cases attending School Clinic.....	1432
No. of Attendances at School Clinic	3241
No. of Ringworm Cases treated by X-Rays	24
No. of School Notifications from Teachers and Attendance Officers	192
No. of visits by Health Visitors to Minor Infectious Diseases	86
No. of Cases visited by Members of Civic Guild...	216
No. of Attendances at "Settlement" School for Invalid Children	1141

BOROUGH OF CHESTERFIELD.

Population (estimated civil)	37653
Area	2643 acres
Rateable Value.....	£146137
Education Rate.....	£17 1s. 8d.
Number of Schools	14
Accommodation.....	7048
Number on Rolls	6659
Average Attendance	5744'9

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Ald. G. EASTWOOD, J.P.
 Deputy-Chairman—Ald. G. BOOTH, M.D., J.P.
 Alderman RHODES.
 Alderman SHENTALL.
 Councillor CLAYTON.
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 JAMES MANSELL, Esq., M.A.
 F. HILL, Esq.
 W. MURPHY, Esq.

MEDICAL INSPECTION STAFF.

Medical Officer—R. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
 Assistant at Inspection and Clerk—Miss W. BEARDSLEY.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The routine medical inspection was re-commenced in March, 1916. The general arrangements have been similar to those of previous years. The total number of children examined (groups 1-3) in the nine months was

1515 as compared with 636 in 1915 (when the routine inspection was only conducted from January to May), and 2097 for the whole year in 1914.

In addition 448 special cases were examined, and 1134 children previously found defective were re-examined.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED

March 13th, 1916, to December 31st, 1916.

A. "CODE" GROUPS.

Age	Entrants.						Inter- mediate Group.	Leavers.					Grand Total.
	3	4	5	6	other ages.	Total.	8	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	
Boys ...	—	63	203	16	3	285	206	196	32	2	9	445	730
Girls ...	4	54	216	22	5	301	225	200	47	4	8	484	785
Totals	4	117	419	38	8	586	431	396	79	6	17	929	1515

B. GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE."

	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years).	Special Cases.	Re-Examinations (i.e. No. of Children re-examined).
Boys	212	529
Girls	236	605
	...	448	1134

**PERCENTAGE OF DEFECTS FOUND AMONGST
THE 1515 CHILDREN INSPECTED.**

Defective Teeth	13.4
Malnutrition	12.2
Verminous	10.7
Defective Vision	10.3
Uncleanliness	7.6
Poorly-clad	6.2
Suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5.9
Anæmia	4.8
Tonsils and Adenoids	3.8
Skin Diseases	3.4
Otorrhœa	3.2
Heart Disease	3.1
Defective Hearing	2.1
Defective Speech	1.9
Deformities	1.8
Bronchitis	1.7
External Eye Disease .....	.8
Rickets .....	.7

DEFECTS AT THE VARIOUS SCHOOLS.

The next table shews the percentage of defects in the various Schools.

It should be observed that Hasland Church of England shews the best figures with regard to cleanliness, viz.:—3.1 per cent. as compared with 43.3 per cent. in St. Mary's School, 36.9 per cent. in Christ Church, and 36 per cent. in Soresby Street School, which gives the highest figures.

This excellent figure attained at the Hasland School must be attributed to the very active interest which is taken by the teaching staff of this School in the condition of the children. Exery morning a "cleanliness" inspection is held by the head master, and no boy or girl is

allowed to attend school in an uncleanly state. Any child found to be verminous is at once reported to the School Medical Officer.

It cannot be too emphatically stated that uncleanliness is closely allied to disease. The dirty child soon becomes a victim to skin maladies, his general health suffers, and much school time is lost.

The adoption generally of the close supervision practised at the Hasland Schools would soon result in a great reduction of the excessive number of unclean children in the Chesterfield area, and much unnecessary loss of school time from minor skin diseases would be prevented.

St. Mary's and Christ Church Schools give the highest percentages as regards malnutrition. The chief causes of malnutrition are probably, unsuitable food, lack of fresh air, domestic insanitation, and bad housing conditions. The parents of malnourished children are invited to attend the School Clinic to interview the Medical Officer. The dietaries and domestic conditions are inquired into and suitable advice given, but more home supervision is very necessary in these cases.

ABBREVIATED FORM OF TABLE 2.
 RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE
 OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.					CODE GROUPS		SPECIALS.	
					Number Referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Number Referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
	Malnutrition ...	...	...	...	15	43	4	14
	Uncleanliness :							
	Head ...	...	...	...	59	28	22	7
	Body ...	...	...	...	16	13	2	1
SKIN	Ringworm :							
	Head ...	...	...	...	2	1	2	1
	Body ...	...	...	...	2	—	1	—
	Scabies ...	...	...	...	16	—	7	—
	Impetigo ...	...	...	...	14	—	18	—
	Other Disease ...	...	...	...	3	5	7	2
EYE	Defective Vision and Squint...				246	16	46	11
	External Eye Disease ...				5	4	12	1
EAR	Defective Hearing ...	...	...	...	17	9	9	6
	Ear Disease ...	...	...	...	18	2	6	1
TEETH	Dental Disease ...	...	...	...	235	56	23	18
NOSE AND THROAT	Enlarged Tonsils ...	...	...	...	13	15	4	3
	Adenoids ...	...	...	...	16	21	5	2
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids ...				29	10	6	10
	Defective Speech ...	...	...	...	3	19	3	15
HEART AND CIR- CULATION	Heart Disease :							
	Organic ...	...	...	...	4	7	1	—
	Functional ...	...	...	...	7	28	2	8
	Anaemia ...	...	...	...	9	47	2	17
LUNGS	Pulmonary Tuberculosis :							
	Suspected... ..	...	...	...	4	63	2	15
	Definite ... ..	...	...	...	8	—	1	—
	Chronic Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	13	—	1	—
	Other Disease ...	...	...	...	2	4	1	3
NERVOUS SYSTEM	Epilepsy ...	...	...	...	2	—	2	—
	Chorea ...	...	...	...	5	—	3	—
	Other Disease ...	...	...	...	7	8	2	1
	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis :							
	Glands ...	...	...	...	4	—	1	—
	Bones and Joints ...				3	—	1	—
	Other Forms ...	...	...	...	2	2	2	—
	Rickets ...	...	...	...	2	7	3	4
	Deformities ...	...	...	...	11	10	2	3
	Other Defects or Diseases ...				10	26	5	11
					802	444	208	154

TABLE SHEWING PERCENTAGE OF DEFECTS
AT THE VARIOUS SCHOOLS.

SCHOOL.	Total number examined.	Vision.		Teeth.		Tonsils and Adenoids.		Uncleanli- ness, De- fective clo- thing, etc.		Malnutrition.	
		No. of Defects.	%	No. of Defects.	%	No. of Defects.	%	No. of Defects.	%	No. of Defects.	%
Central	348	20	5.7	70	20.1	18	5.1	48	13.7	45	12.9
Derby Road .. .	268	50	18.6	26	9.7	9	3.3	90	33.5	32	11.9
St. Mary's .. .	143	20	13.9	14	9.7	3	2.09	62	43.3	21	14.6
St. Thomas' .. .	133	22	16.5	16	12.03	6	4.5	38	28.5	16	12.03
Hasland C.E.	129	4	3.1	9	6.2	1	.7	4	3.1	6	4.6
Brampton * .. .	104	—	—	7	6.7	—	—	28	26.9	14	13.4
Victoria	100	13	13	16	16	4	4	25	25	17	17
Soresby Street ..	100	3	3	14	14	7	7	36	36	11	11
Christ Church ..	92	6	6.5	12	13.09	5	5.4	34	36.9	14	15.2
Hasland Eyre Street	98	13	18.3	20	20.4	5	5.1	6	6.1	9	9.1

* *Infants only Examined.*

Of special note in Table 2, which gives the number of defects found in the course of Inspection is the large number (67) of children put down as suspected cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. This number includes all cases in which, on examination of the lungs, areas of defective air entry in the apices or hilus region have been found. Probably, in only a small proportion is the condition due to actual tuberculous infection, as many of these areas of deficient æration in the lungs owe their origin to defective and improper or obstructed breathing and a lack of fresh air. However, these abnormal lung areas constitute a very favourable "soil" for the lodgment of the tubercle bacillus and many of these children will eventually become definitely tuberculous.

Systematic physical exercises and a sufficiency of fresh air are essential for these scholars. The unsatisfactory state of the atmosphere in some of the older schools in the Borough is a matter which demands attention. On entering these schools, one is met with a wave of overheated and evil-smelling, foul air. The health of both teachers and scholars must suffer from working in this vitiated atmosphere. Education on open-air lines is now beyond the experimental stage and most encouraging results are being obtained from open-air day schools throughout the country. It is most important that some provision for education in the open-air should be made in Chesterfield in the near future.

THE SCHOOL CLINIC.

Inspection Clinics have been held twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, from 2 to 5 o'clock.

The system of working the Clinics is the same as in previous years. There has been most satisfactory co-ordination between the Teaching Staff, the School Attendance Staff, and the School Medical Staff.

A large increase in the work of the School Clinic has to be recorded for 1916.

	No. of Cases.	No. of Attendances.
1912	719	1677
1913	930	2566
1914	898	2237
1915	795	2385
1916	1432	3241

A classification of the diseases affecting the 1432 children who attended the Clinic in 1916 is given in the appended table.

CASES ATTENDING THE SCHOOL CLINIC.

DISEASE.	No. of Cases.	No. of Attendances.
Contagious Diseases:		
Ringworm	78	223
Impetigo... ..	256	627
Scabies	82	293
Other	40	65
Tuberculous Diseases:		
Pulmonary	74	305
Other	22	62
Infectious Diserses:		
Sore Throat	143	143
Other	43	45
Nervous Diseases	32	114
Diseases of Circulation	36	93
Diseases of the Eye	200	423
Diseases of the Ear	42	77
Deformities	28	50
Other Skin Diseases	65	127
Miscellaneous		
Debility	85	168
Bronchitis	49	95
Verminous Head	93	208
Orher	64	123
TOTALS.	1432	3241

Again it is necessary to point out that a great proportion of the children attending suffer from minor contagious diseases which are very amenable to suitable treatment but which, if neglected, may be the cause of prolonged absence from school. It has been calculated that during 1916 the total time lost by children attending the Clinics, suffering from these minor ailments was **622** months. This, of course, means a considerable loss in grant to the Education Authority.

A few simple ointments were supplied at the Clinic for the treatment of these infectious conditions but, as was suggested in last year's Report, they could be much more effectively dealt with at a morning treatment Clinic, the afternoon session being reserved for cases requiring a careful and thorough examination.

Twenty-four cases of Ringworm of the Head were sent for X-Ray Treatment to the County School Clinic.

The very considerable increase in the number of cases of Scabies (82) is noteworthy. This excessive prevalence of scabies has also been observed in other areas.

No fewer than 96 suspected cases of Tuberculosis (Pulmonary 74—Non-Pulmonary 22) were under observation at the Clinic. Doubtful Tuberculous children are now sent to the Tuberculous Dispensary where a quanti Von Pirquet test is performed. If a negative result is obtained to this test, which is very simple and harmless, the possibility of Tuberculous infection is eliminated.

As without doubt, Tuberculosis is very rife amongst the child life in the Borough, possibly because of the bad housing conditions which exist, the importance of providing facilities for education in the open-air is again emphasised. Playground classes and classes in the public parks could easily be established.

Some authorities have provided awnings to be placed over part of the playground, thus making open-air education possible in all weathers in the summer months.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No serious epidemic of Infectious Disease occurred, but Whooping Cough was fairly prevalent during a part of the year. 192 cases were notified by the Attendance Officers and Teachers, compared with 222 in 1915, 162 in 1914, and 892 in 1913.

School notifications are of the greatest importance for the control of diseases not compulsorily notifiable under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, and I hope the members of the Teaching Staffs will continue to bring all these cases to the notice of the School Medical Officer.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED BY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND ATTENDANCE OFFICERS.

SCHOOL.	Whooping Cough.	Chicken Pox,	Mumps.	Sore Throat.	Measles.	Verruinous,	Impetigo.	Ringworm.	Conjunctivitis.	Scarlet Fever.	TOTAL.
Christ Church ...	13	17	—	3	—	—	1	1	1	1	37
Victoria ...	4	18	12	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	36
Soresby Street ...	2	4	16	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	26
Derby Road ...	20	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	22
Central ...	12	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	18
Spital ...	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Brampton ...	—	—	—	7	1	1	1	1	—	—	11
Hipper Street ...	—	—	—	7	—	3	1	—	—	—	11
Old Road ...	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	7
St. Helen's ...	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	4
St. Mary's ...	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Hasland C.E ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
St. Thomas' ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hasland Eyre St....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
TOTAL ...	66	42	29	20	15	6	6	4	3	1	192

TABLE 4.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1916.

Condition.	No of defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary.		No. of defects for which no report is available.	No. of defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Per-centage of defects treated.
	From previous year.	New.	Total.		Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Clothing ..	4	16	20	7	3	2	2	6	53.9
Footgear ..	5	26	31	8	10	5	3	5	78.2
Cleanliness of Head..	34	81	115	26	28	14	6	41	53.9
Cleanliness of Body..	3	18	21	8	4	2	—	7	46.1
Nutrition ..	4	29	33	15	4	5	4	5	72.2
Nose and Throat ..	41	95	136	20	38	7	2	69	49.1
External Eye Disease	4	17	21	5	6	4	2	4	75.0
Ear Disease ..	13	24	37	6	6	6	3	16	48.3
Teeth ..	78	258	336	74	81	26	5	150	42.7
Heart and Circulation	2	8	10	3	—	3	4	—	100.0
Lungs, ..	2	16	18	4	5	4	3	2	85.7
Nervous System ..	2	11	13	2	3	2	3	3	88.8
Skin ..	4	38	42	5	26	6	1	4	89.1
Rickets ..	3	3	6	1	—	1	2	2	60.0
Deformities ..	3	9	12	3	2	3	1	3	66.6
Tuberculosis—non-pulmonary ..	3	10	13	2	3	5	3	—	100.0
Speech ..	7	6	13	1	—	2	—	10	16.6
Mental Condition ..	3	7	10	1	Sent to M.D. Home.			7	22.2
Vision and Squint ..	204	292	496	110	92	33	11	250	35.2
Hearing ..	8	26	34	4	7	6	2	15	50.0
Miscellaneous ..	8	20	28	6	10	4	2	6	72.7
TOTAL ..	435	1010	1445	311	330	140	59	605	46.6

RE-INSPECTIONS.

Under the scheme which was established some years ago defective children are re-inspected five times in the year. A list of the children for whom no treatment has been provided is sent to the Medical Inspection Sub-Committee of the Civic Guild. The ladies of this Committee "follow up" these cases to their homes and urge on the parents the need of obtaining suitable treatment. The total number of cases dealt with by the Civic Guild was 216, compared with 168 for the previous year.

Table 4 gives an analysis of the defects treated during 1916. It will be seen that 46.6 of defective children received treatment. This percentage compares favourably with that of previous years, viz.:—21.3 per cent. for 1915, 48.6 per cent for 1914, 34.8 per cent. for 1913, and 25.8 per cent. for 1912.

For several years children with untreated defective vision have been steadily accumulating in the Borough, because of lack of easy facilities for obtaining treatment. An arrangement has now been made with the Ophthalmic Surgeon at the County School Clinic to deal with six Borough cases per week. This scheme became operative at the beginning of 1917.

"Typed" letters drawing attention to Section 12 of the Children's Act, 1908 have been most effective in inducing recalcitrant parents to obtain proper medical treatment. 42 of these letters were sent in 1916. No prosecutions were instituted.

REPORT OF CIVIC GUILD MEDICAL INSPECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.

TOTAL CASES VISITED:—216.

DEFECTIVE VISION:—

Remedied	68
No Treatment	18
Under Treatment	11
Left School	18

DEFECTIVE TEETH:—

Remedied	38
No Treatment	7
Under Treatment	5
Left School	9

TONSILS and ADENOIDS:—

Remedied	18
No Treatment	3
Under Treatment	4
Left School	6

OTORRHŒA:—

Remedied	4
No Treatment	1
Under Treatment	4
Left School	2

One delicate child sent to country for 3 months by Civic Guild.

One delicate child sent to seaside for 3 weeks by Civic Guild.

The Civic Guild has also provided boots in needy cases.

The School for Crippled and Delicate Children has been continued at the "Settlement." The Superintendent reports that 23 children on the books made 1141 attendances. Two children were sent for a week's holiday in the country.



